

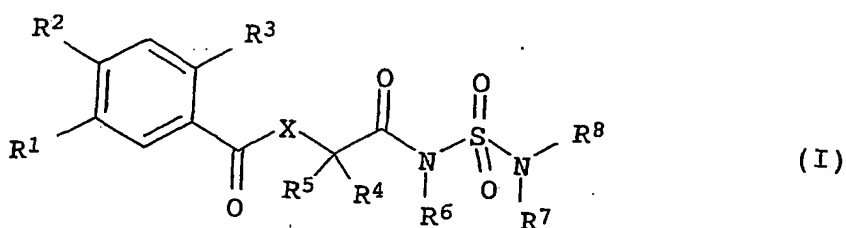
10/522095
 DT01 Rec'd PCT/EP 24 JAN 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

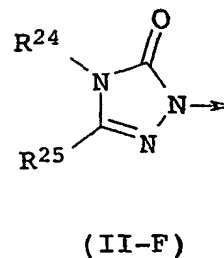
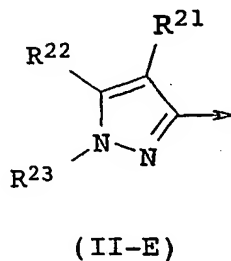
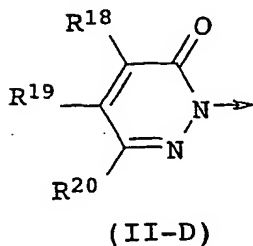
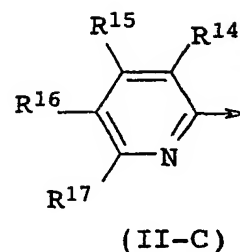
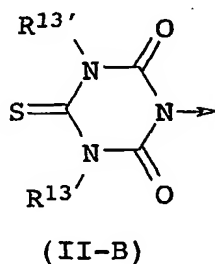
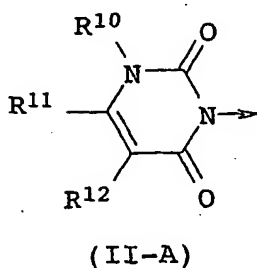
1. (Currently Amended) A 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid derivative of the formula I

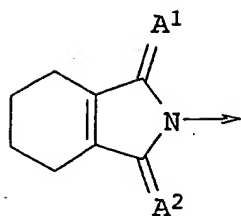


wherein:

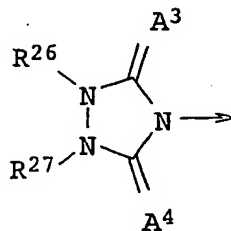
X is oxygen or NR⁹,

R¹ is a heterocyclic radical of the formulae II-A to II-H,





(II-G)



(II-H)

R^2 is hydrogen or halogen,

R^3 is halogen or cyano,

R^4 , R^5 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, or R^4 and R^5 together are a group $=CH_2$,

R^6 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy,

R^7 , R^8 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl,

C_3 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkynyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl,

C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfinyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

cyano- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

amino- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

di(C_1 - C_4 -alkyl) amino- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

(C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino)carbonyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

di(C_1 - C_4 -alkyl)aminocarbonyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

phenyl or C_1 - C_4 -alkylphenyl or

R^7 and R^8 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are

attached form a saturated or unsaturated 3-, 4-, 5-, 6 or 7-membered nitrogen heterocycle which may optionally contain one or two further heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, sulfur and oxygen as ring members, which may contain 1 or 2 carbonyl and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three substituents selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄-alkyl and halogen,

R⁹ is hydrogen, hydroxyl, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, phenyl, phenyl-C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₃-C₆-alkenyl or C₃-C₆-alkynyl,

R¹⁰ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or amino,

R¹¹ is C₁-C₄-alkyl or C₁-C₄-haloalkyl,

R¹² is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R¹³, R^{13'} independently of one another are hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R¹⁴ is halogen,

R¹⁵ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R¹⁶ is C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio, C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl or C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyloxy,

R¹⁷ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R¹⁸ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄-alkyl or amino,

R¹⁹ is C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio or C₁-C₄-alkylsulfonyl,

R²⁰ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R²¹ is hydrogen, halogen or C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R^{22} is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkylthio or
 C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyl,

R^{23} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,
or

R^{22} and R^{23} together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 5-, 6- or
7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which may contain a heteroatom
selected from the group consisting of oxygen and nitrogen as a ring-forming
atom and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three radicals selected
from the group consisting of C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and halogen,

R^{24} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl,

R^{25} is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl,

or

R^{24} and R^{25} together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 5-, 6- or
7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which optionally contains an oxygen
atom as ring-forming atom and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three
radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and halogen,

R^{26} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl,

R^{27} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl,

or

R^{26} and R^{27} together with the atoms to which they are attached form a 5-, 6- or
7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which optionally contains an oxygen
atom as ring-forming atom and/or which may be substituted by one, two or three
radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and halogen,

A¹, A², A³, A⁴ are each independently of one another oxygen or sulfur,
~~and its agriculturally useful salts~~ or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

2. (Original) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in claim 1 where R² is 10
fluorine, chlorine or hydrogen.

3. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ where R³
is chlorine or cyano.

4. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~
~~claims~~ claim 1 where X is oxygen.

5. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of the preceding~~
~~claims~~ claim 1 where R⁶ is hydrogen.

6. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~
claim 1 where R¹ is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-A in which R¹⁰ is C₁-C₄-alkyl
or amino, R¹¹ is C₁-C₄-haloalkyl and R¹² is hydrogen.

7. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~
claim 1 where R¹ is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-B in which R¹³ and R^{13'} are
each independently of one another C₁-C₄-alkyl.

8. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~
claim 1 where R^1 is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-C in which R^{14} is fluorine or
chlorine, R^{15} is hydrogen and R^{16} is C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyl or
 C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyloxy.

9. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~
claim 1 where R^1 is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-D in which R^{18} is hydrogen,
methyl or amino, R^{19} is C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl or C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyl and R^{20} is hydrogen.

10. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~
claim 1 where R^1 is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-E in which R^{21} is halogen or
 C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, R^{22} is C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy or C_1 - C_4 -alkylsulfonyl and R^{23} is
 C_1 - C_4 -alkyl.

11. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~
claim 1 where R^1 is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-F in which R^{24} is hydrogen,
methyl, difluoromethyl or trifluoromethyl, R^{25} is methyl or trifluoromethyl or R^{24} together
with R^{25} are a chain of the formula $-(CH_2)_4-$.

12. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~
claim 1 where R^1 is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-G in which A^1 and A^2 are
each oxygen.

13. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 where R^1 is a heterocyclic radical of the formula II-H in which R^{26} and R^{27} are each independently of one another C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or C_1 - C_4 -haloalkyl or R^{26} together with R^{27} are a chain of the formulae $-CH_2-O-(CH_2)_2-$ or $-(CH_2)_4-$.

14. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1 where

R^2 is hydrogen, chlorine or fluorine,

R^3 is chlorine or cyano,

R^6 is hydrogen and

X is oxygen.

15. (Currently Amended) A benzoic acid derivative as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 14~~ claim 1 where R^4 or R^5 is hydrogen and the other radical R^4 or R^5 is C_1 - C_4 -alkyl or R^4 , R^5 are each methyl.

16. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of ~~4 thereof~~ thereof as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 and at least one inert liquid and/or solid carrier and, if desired, at least one surfactant.

17. (Currently Amended) A composition for the desiccation/defoliation of plants, comprising an effective amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic

acid derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt ~~of I~~ thereof as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 which acts as a desiccant/defoliant and at least one inert liquid and/or solid carrier and, if desired, at least one surfactant.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt ~~of I~~ thereof as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 to act on plants, their habitat and/or on seed.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for the desiccation/defoliation of plants, which comprises allowing an amount which is effective as a desiccant/defoliant of at least one 3-heterocyclyl-substituted benzoic acid derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt ~~of I~~ thereof as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 to act on plants.

20. Cancel

21. (New) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation or for the desiccation/defoliation of plants, comprising applying to plants, the habitat of the plants or seeds of the plants an agriculturally effective amount of a derivative or salt of claim 1.